



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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NOTICE TO READERS: Effective 1 October, the processing indicators appearing in brackets at the start of each item in this publication will be changed. All new indicators will begin with "FBIS" to make the material more easily identifiable. Some will also indicate whether the item has been translated from the vernacular or transcribed from English.

An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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South Africa, Lesotho Hold Talks on Border Crisis

MB2310173994 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1600 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Talks on the border crisis have been held between the Lesotho Government and the South African ambassador at the Eastern Cape border town of Matatiele. Farmers in the former Transkei have been impounding stolen stock and blocking three mountain passes since Thursday [20 October].

The talks, which involve the police and farmers, will resume this week. Farmers are still refusing to remove the blockades, and more stock was impounded this morning.

'Tough Action' Promised in Mozambique if Needed

MB2510194394 London BBC World Service in English 1830 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Southern African leaders have been holding a one-day summit meeting in Zimbabwe today. It was requested by President Chissano and comes just two days before the start of Mozambique's first multiparty elections. The presidents have agreed on a strong line about their hopes for a peaceful outcome to the polls. From Harare, Rachel Rawlins reports:

The Frontline states are prepared to take what they called appropriate and timely action if the situation in Mozambique so demands. Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira said member states were ready to act in concert to promote stability and peace and that included taking tough action if necessary:

[Begin recording] [Shamuyarira] What is being set up is the machinery, the mechanism for conflict resolution and conflict management. In the context of the OAU we are setting up that machinery and that's what will be used in the event of a breakdown of law and order.

[Rawlins] So, the Frontline states and Southern African Development Community [SADC] are prepared to intervene militarily in the region?

[Shamuyarira] Yes. [end recording]

In his opening remarks, Frontline states Chairman Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe made the point of urging all sides to accept the results of the elections. Most observers believe the weight of these remarks must be aimed at Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] and its leader, Afonso Dhlakama. He had at one stage threatened to disregard the results, claiming there would be massive electoral fraud.

Mr. Dhlakama was in town, and although he didn't attend the summit, he later had a meeting with President Mugabe, but neither man made any comments before their discussions. They sat opposite each other in a hotel

room looking rather grim-faced along with Botswana President Sir Ketumile Masire.

The summit final communique also made a strong appeal against interference by foreign interests, which, it said, could compromise the implementation of the Mozambican peace process. But it wasn't all doom and dire warnings. The summit leaders agreed that the fundamental condition for staging free and fair elections in Mozambique had been met, and that they would support whichever party or candidate that won the polls.

Renamo Leader Says No Return to War if Loses Elections

MB2510195594 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1919 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Harare Oct 25 SAPA—Mozambique Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] opposition leader Afonso Dhlakama on Tuesday [25 October] night promised he would not go to war again even if his party lost the country's elections on Thursday and Friday.

Mr. Dhlakama gave this assurance to the Front-line states after a three-hour meeting with Zimbabwe president and Front-line states Chairman Robert Mugabe and Botswana's Sir Ketumile Masire. Afterwards, Mr. Mugabe said: "He (Mr. Dhlakama) has assured us there is no resort to the war again and that he has abided by his commitment to the peace process."

Asked if he would resume fighting, Mr. Dhlakama said: "I fought the war to bring democracy to Mozambique, not to get power for myself. I was a general, I am already demobilised.

"I won't say I will win the elections but the opportunity is there."

Mr. Dhlakama said he had attended the meeting to brief Front-line countries on problems Renamo had with the Mozambican Government during the election process. Earlier on Tuesday the Front-line states said they would intervene militarily in Mozambique if violence broke out after the elections.

Mugabe Commends Lesotho for Peaceful Resolution of Crisis

MB2510124594 Maseru Radio Lesotho in English 1130 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government and the people of Lesotho have been commended for realizing that only through peaceful means can lasting settlements be reached. Welcoming heads of state and government at the meeting of Frontline States in Harare this morning, President Robert Mugabe said the solution of the Lesotho crisis through a regional initiative [words indistinct] promotes regions, as well as international communities. President Mugabe said it is a shining example of

the role and importance of subregion [word indistinct] in implementing the mechanism of conflict prevention.

Referring to the coming Mozambican elections, President Mugabe said after years of conflict, it was important that all parties accept the result of the elections to pave way for reconciliation, reconstruction, and development. This follows threats by Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] Leader Afonso Dhlakama that he would not accept the result of the elections.

He also expressed hope that the Angolan Government and UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] sign an agreement that will bring lasting peace in Angola and urged both parties to move swiftly and to cease all hostilities.

The leaders will this afternoon be in closed session to review the situation in Mozambique and Angola. Dr. Ntsu Mokhehle is expected to brief his colleagues on the progress made in Lesotho since the restoration of constitutional order.

Involvement Needed for Sustainable Development To Succeed

*MB2110163194 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1523
GMT 21 Oct 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Harare Oct 21 SAPA—The second Southern African Conference on Environmental Management which ended at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe on Friday resolved that all people should be involved in development activities to ensure the success of sustainable development, ZIANA [ZIMBABWE INTER-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY] NEWS AGENCY reports.

Speakers at the three-day conference said that unless the welfare of people was improved, some environmental projects would fail. The poor in particular tended to be the hardest hit by environmental degradation and were the least well-equipped to protect themselves. But it also

emerged that the poor caused a great deal of damage to the environment due to short-term necessity, ignorance and lack of resources.

A recurrent theme throughout the conference was that the 1992 Earth Summit had succeeded in making the world aware of the urgency to achieve environmentally sustainable development. This could be achieved through promoting environmental education, marshalling financial and technical support for environmentally friendly projects, demanding accountability for industrial operations and pooling together regional resources.

RSA Official Views Challenges of Development, Conservation

*MB1910174194 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1624
GMT 19 Oct 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Johannesburg Oct 19 SAPA—The most important challenge facing South Africa in its reconstruction and development is enhancing economic production without compromising future generations, the deputy minister of environmental affairs and tourism said on Wednesday [19 October].

Mr. Bantu Holomisa told the Second Southern African International Conference on Environmental Management at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe that economic development to eliminate poverty and deprivation needed to be combined with a conservation ethic.

Mr. Holomisa said the concept of development had to be broadened so it covered not only economic growth but also social and cultural development. "We need to build sustainable conditions into the economic development strategy to ensure economic attitudes do not go beyond the limits which the environment can sustain," he said.

He acknowledged the South African Government could not achieve the required goals on its own. It needed to build partnerships with all sectors of society, particularly industry.

Angola

Zairean Troops Move Toward Cabinda, 3 Said Killed

LD2510225594 Lisbon Radio Renascencia in Portuguese to Europe 2200 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Relations between Angola and Zaire have taken turn for the worse. In the last few hours Zairean troops moved toward the Angolan border near Cabinda and there have actually been reports of clashes. There are reports of three people killed and of thousands of Zairean special commandos in the region. This is President Mobutu's reply to the Angolan air force's recent attack against Zairean territory. Our correspondent Paulo Juliao reports:

[Juliao] The Zairean Government has sent over 150,000 [as heard] special commandos to the border area between Angola and the Angolan province of Cabinda. The commandos have been deployed 15 km from the city of Cabinda and are reported to have killed three Angolans today as they attempted to cross the border.

The Zaireans justify the move with the bombing by Luanda last Thursday [20 October] of a military base on Zairean territory. Luanda explained the attack as a pilot's technical error, but this seems to have cut little ice with the Zaireans. The matter was raised at talks between the two governments in Zaire, but the meeting would appear to have failed to convince the Zaireans who have unilaterally decided to close the border and pose a military threat to the city of Cabinda. [passage omitted]

Burundi

'Around 50' Rwandan Refugees Killed in North

AB2510172594 Paris AFP in English 1650 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bujumbura, Oct 25 (AFP)—The Burundi Army on Tuesday [25 October] confirmed reports that around 50 Rwandan refugees had been killed Monday in northern Burundi, but gave no details on the attack or the suspected perpetrators.

Earlier the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced in Geneva that 50 refugees had been killed and 12 wounded by uniformed gunmen. Spokesman Ron Redmond said most of the dead and injured were probably Hutus, who make up the majority of the some 2,000 Rwandan refugees in the region. He said the attackers wore uniforms but had no further information on their identities. The victims included women and children.

The wounded were taken to hospital by teams from UNHCR and the international humanitarian organization Medecins sans Frontieres (Doctors without borders).

The attack occurred at 2 a.m. near Gittwa in Ngozy province, south of the Rwandan city of Butare.

Redmond said the UNHCR was extremely concerned by the deteriorating security conditions in the region where 2,000 refugees are waiting to be repatriated to new camps.

The attack happened while a delegation of four Rwandan ministers, including Interior Minister Seth Sendashonga, were visiting the region. The ministers, who arrived in Burundi on Sunday, are on a mission to persuade refugees to return home to Rwanda.

Burundi military sources said an incursion into Burundi by armed elements from Rwanda was very unlikely, but affirmed that Burundi troops were not implicated in the massacre. The Burundi Army is made up essentially of ethnic minority Tutsis.

Another attack on a public transport vehicle at Bugarama, northwest of Bujumbura and southwest of Ngozy, left five dead on Monday, military sources said.

The perpetrators were believed to have been among those whom the army chased out of the Cibitoke region of northwest Burundi last week after they carried out several attacks on military positions and refugee camps.

According to the Burundi military authorities, these armed groups are made up of Hutu extremists who could be receiving support from elements in the former Rwandan Army, defeated last July by the Rwandan Patriotic Front, the former Tutsi rebels.

Army Confirms Deaths

LD2510185494 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In Burundi the Army has confirmed the deaths of 50 people in a refugee camp in the province of Ngozi, in the north of the country. There are no specific details concerning the circumstances surrounding this attack, but the UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] believes that the victims were probably from the Hutu ethnic group, and Burundi sources rule out the possibility that armed men from Rwanda could have participated in this incident as a delegation of four Rwandan ministers is currently on a visit to Burundi [sentence as heard].

Central African Republic

Patasse Dispels Rumors on Cabinet Reshuffle

AB2510122594 Bangui Radiodiffusion-Television Centrafricaine Radio in French 1800 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ange-Felix Patasse met with leaders of parties belonging to the presidential group at the Palais de la Renaissance in Bangui yesterday afternoon to discuss possible amendments to the draft Constitution. The head of state and his interlocutors also

discussed the group's life, mainly issues related to the executive and legislative powers. President Patasse took the opportunity to clear the confusion generated by a disinformation campaign in the country. He said he is open to dialogue and constructive criticism, but opposed to a campaign of lies. He then talked about the persistent rumors concerning a possible cabinet reshuffle. Let us listen to the head of state:

[Begin Patasse recording] It is bad to reshuffle a cabinet that is still in its first year. Politically, it can only harm us on the international scene and besides, were I to make such a move, I would normally contact you. Unfortunately, I have learned the persistent rumor from many quarters that some parties of the presidential group have asked or are about to ask their ministers to quit the government because they are at odds with the head of state and no longer agree with the presidential group's principle.

In regard to this rumor, I initially said.... [pauses] I mean since there is this atmosphere of misunderstanding, it is better to wait and see what will happen. I adopted this stand because I wondered whether raising the point suddenly would solve the problem. I, therefore, decided not to raise the issue but to wait for the next cabinet meeting to call on the ministers belonging to the group to contact their leadership and to let me know whether it is true that their leaders are calling on them to quit the government. I added that if this is true, they should inform me so that I take the necessary steps to carry out a cabinet reshuffle.

I waited for two weeks after which I received some replies. I realized that many people outside the group had tried to sow confusion in people's minds by spreading false reports. Fortunately, my wait-and-see attitude enabled me to understand the problem better and to see that the presidential group, on the contrary, is not at all involved in this campaign of lies but that it is rather a number of adversaries who want to make people believe that the presidential group is losing support that is responsible for the rumors.

People should make criticisms and suggestions that can help us to progress. But then, as you can see that is typical human behavior. I, therefore, state that experience has taught me to be more careful. Any time there are such rumors, I say to the interior and defense ministers: Beware. Beware. You have to check 10, 20, or 30 times what people say, because—and it is a pity—Central Africans have this reflex; we have this reflex of distorting realities. Sometimes, it is the Movement for the Liberation of the Central African People [MLPC] activists who distribute leaflets against the MLPC ministers. I say this, because I was forced to conduct very thorough investigations to know where we are and why. [end recording]

Equatorial Guinea

Speaker, Deputy Speaker Resign Posts in Protest AB2510225494 Paris AFP in French 1855 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Libreville, 25 Oct (AFP)—Felipe Ondo Obiang and Antonio Pascual Oko Ebobo, speaker and deputy speaker respectively of the Equatorial Guinea National Assembly, have resigned their posts as a sign of protest against the government, consistent sources disclosed today in Libreville. The Equatorial Guinea state-controlled radio, monitored in Libreville, announced these resignations without giving any explanation. It simply stated that the two men had, according to the procedures in force, tendered their resignations to the head of state, President Teodoro Obiang Nguema, who issued two decrees relieving them of their posts.

However, commenting on the Spanish-speaking Radio exterior de Espana, the two parliamentarians maintained that their action was aimed at "protesting against the very poor management by the government which had led the country to the disastrous social and economic situation in which it finds itself today." They blamed the Obiang Nguema regime of "violating human rights despite appeals by parliament" and "obstructing the democratic current process." "As representatives of the suffering masses, we could not continue to stick to our posts," they concluded.

The two parliamentarians were members of the Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea, the former single ruling party which overwhelmingly won the country's first multiparty elections last November. The poll had however been boycotted by several opposition parties. Mr. Ondo Obiang, who hails from the same region as the head of state, had been member of the central committee of the single ruling party at the time of President Macias Nguema, and held several ministerial posts under that regime.

Sao Tome and Principe

President Names Carlos da Graca Prime Minister AB2510165094 Paris AFP in English 1644 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sao Tome, Oct 25 (AFP)—President Miguel Trovoada on Tuesday [25 October] named Carlos da Graca, leader of the Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome e Principe (MLSTP/PSD), prime minister and charged him with forming a government.

The former single ruling party MLSTP, which joined up with the Social Democratic Party when a multi-party system was introduced here in 1990, won the general elections on 2 October, taking 27 of the 55 seats in the national assembly.

As the Democratic Convergence Party (PCD), in the majority since 1991, and Trovoada's Independent Democratic Action (ADI) turned down Da Graca's invitation to join a government of national unity, he will form a single-party government with the aid of technocrats.

However the tiny Democratic Opposition Coalition (CODO), which did not manage to hang on to its only seat in the outgoing assembly, has agreed to take part in the government, a decision the MLSTP hailed as "courageous and patriotic."

Trovoada called the elections in July, six months early, in a bid to end a drawn-out conflict between the assembly, dominated by the PCD, and the government on one hand, and the presidency on the other.

Zaire

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Stops Over, Promises Aid

AB2510203894 Kinshasa Tele-Zaire Television Network in French 1903 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo this afternoon held discussions at the Ndjili International Airport with Strobe Talbott, U.S. first deputy secretary of state, whose aircraft made a stopover here in Kinshasa on his way from Malawi. Amissie Massulita has the details:

[Begin recording] [Amissie] Mr. Talbott, who arrived in Kinshasa today at the Ndjili International Airport at 0853 GMT on his way from Malawi to Accra, Ghana, was welcomed at the airport by John Yates, charge d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Zaire. He held a long discussion with Zairian Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo at the VIP Lounge at the airport. The two statesmen recently met in the United States during the Zairian prime minister's latest visit to New York and Washington. In Mr. Talbott's delegation is George Moose, the undersecretary of state in charge of African affairs. George Moose readily answered questions put to him by Tele-Zaire correspondents at Ndjili.

[Moose] This visit is a followup of the discussions that we had in New York and Washington, because we want to follow closely the evolution of the situation here in Zaire in order to better understand and better support the government's recovery and reform program. We know that there are many challenges for the prime minister, but first of all, we are counting on the authorities designated under the High Council of the Republic-Transitional Parliament [HCR-PT] Agreement and

expect that everybody will respect this agreement. In this regard, we have renewed our determination to support this program. [end recording]

After his discussions with Mr. Talbott, Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo led his guest to the tarmac to board his plane for Accra. After the discussions, the U.S. Government made the following declaration at the Ndjili International Airport.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] I would like to read Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott's statement which he authorized at the time of his departure: I held fruitful discussions with Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo in New York and Washington and I am grateful to him for having found the time, despite his heavy schedule, to receive me today enabling us to continue with our discussions during my brief stopover in Kinshasa.

The U.S. Government has always recognized Zaire's enormous potentials. Today, we are encouraged by the fact that all the elements of the country's political class have agreed on the Transitional Constitution. This constitution clearly establishes rules governing relations between the president, the government led by the prime minister, and the HCR-PT. We hope that these regulations will be strictly observed to enable everybody to make vigorous efforts to solve Zaire's numerous problems. This constitutes a heavy burden of responsibility for Mr. Kengo, but as progress is made, especially concerning the regaining of control over the fiscal and monetary situation of the country, Zaire will benefit from more understanding and greater support from the international community.

The United States has undertaken to provide humanitarian assistance to Zaire. We will also continue to find the means of intensifying our efforts to support the economic recovery and political reform programs of Prime Minister Kengo and help the Zairian people as they prepare to participate in free and fair elections. [end recording]

Grenade Kills 1, Injures 10 in Goma Refugee Camp

EA2510160594 Kigali Radio Rwanda in French 1115 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A grenade has exploded in a Rwandan refugee camp in Goma. One person was killed and some 10 others were seriously injured in a bar frequented by elements of the former Rwandan Government Army now taking refuge in Zaire.

Kenya**Somali Gunmen Reportedly Kill 4 Kenyan Soldiers**

EA2510185994 Nairobi *DAILY NATION* in English
24 Oct 94 p 1

[By Kurgat Marindany and Noor Ali]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Somali gunmen on Saturday night [22 October] killed four Kenyan soldiers and injured three others near Hare-Hare border post in Garissa District. Reports said the incident took place between Hare-Hare and Liboi military base.

The dead Kenyans were the major in charge of the Liboi base, two senior sergeants and a private.

The incident took place on Saturday night at 1900 when the soldiers were returning back to base in an Army lorry and were ambushed.

The four were killed inside the lorry, sources at Garissa said yesterday. The heavily armed gunmen—thought to be about 200—from one of the warring factions in Somalia, are said to have also attacked the Hare-Hare military border post and tried to loot the armoury but failed when reinforcements were rushed in from Liboi and they were repulsed back into Somalia.

The men had virtually taken control of the border post before the reinforcements arrived, said the source at the Liboi police post. The police source said one of the Somali gunmen was wounded and captured by the Kenyan troops who were rushed to the border.

A senior officer at the Garissa military camp confirmed the incident but declined to give details promising to call the press later. The three injured and the bodies of the four Kenyans were flown to Nairobi by a military helicopter yesterday.

The Garissa District police boss, Mr. Solomon Ayoma, refused to comment on the issue. An Army spokesman said last night that only the permanent secretary in the office of the president could comment on the matter. [passage omitted]

Minister Demands Somali Gunmen

EA2510191294 Nairobi *KNA* in English 1540 GMT
25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Garissa, 25 Oct (KNA)—Somali bandits who killed four Kenyan soldiers over the weekend should be handed over to Kenyan Government authorities for appropriate action, Minister Hussein Maalim Mohammed said today.

The minister for culture and social services, who is also the Dujis (Kenya African National Union) MP in Garissa District, speaking at Garissa primary school during a books presentation, said that the warlords in charge of Doble area near where the Kenyan soldiers were killed and in Kismaayo should arrest the bandits responsible or kill them and give the bodies to Kenya Government.

The minister called on wananchi [citizens] in the region to surrender illegally held firearms noting that their negative effects could be felt after they wrecked peace in Somalia. He said that all such arms should be surrendered by the end of this year so as to open a new chapter in 1995. [passage omitted]

Mandela Gets Medical Checkups in Saudi Arabia

MB2510203694 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 2000 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Nelson Mandela is reported to have undergone medical checkups at a Saudi Arabian hospital. The news agency SAPA reports that diplomats said that Mr. Mandela spent a few hours at the (Faizal) specialized hospital for the tests, which were apparently linked to a prostrate problem. The diplomats did not wish to be named.

President Mandela later resumed meetings with Saudi officials and businessmen to push for closer cooperation between South Africa and the oil-rich kingdom. He arrived in Saudi Arabia on Sunday [23 October].

Press Club Chairman Denies Slighting President Mandela

MB2510165994 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in Afrikaans 1600 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Johannesburg Press Club Chairman Hans Lombard denied that he slighted President Mandela or his office at a banquet last month. The Newsmaker of the Year award was presented at the banquet. The award was presented jointly to Mandela and F.W. de Klerk.

Lombard's reaction comes after Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal returned the award he had received on behalf of the president in Johannesburg. Lombard said no one from the large group of journalists that attended the occasion had interpreted the insult as such.

De Klerk Comments on 'Attack' in Parliament Debate

MB2510165294 Johannesburg RAPPORT in Afrikaans 23 Oct 94 p 6

[Report by Eugene Gunning]

[FBIS Translated Text] What lurks behind Deputy President De Klerk's strong party-political attack this week during the debate on his budget vote in Parliament? Is there a possibility of a new NP [National Party] approach in the government of national unity?

These are among the questions in political circles after Mr. De Klerk hit out at his political opponents barefisted.

In his reply he spared no one. From General Constand Viljoen of the Freedom Front to Mr. Carl Niehaus of the ANC, Mr. Hennie Bekker of the IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party], and Mrs. Patricia de Lille of the PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress]—they all came under fire.

"It is not a question of a new style," he told RAPPORT. What really happened is that most of the participants in

the debate preferred to make it a party-political issue and not focus on his task as deputy president. They focused on him as NP leader.

It is the NP's democratic right to defend itself and attack other parties. The debate also was the first opportunity in a long time in the parliamentary setup that offered the opportunity to react to various issues, he said.

Omens

Mr. De Klerk also sees the events in the debate as an omen for next year's municipal elections.

If one bears in mind that these elections will take place within a year, it can be expected that political parties will fire shots and make election noises, he said. "It can be expected that things will only get hotter."

He places strong emphasis on the NP's unique character and identity. Although he stresses that the NP still is prepared to deliberate with all political parties on writing the constitution, he says there are, for example, fundamental differences between his party and Gen. Viljoen's.

The NP's power base is also not an exclusive Afrikaner power base.

He still is convinced the majority of Afrikaners voted for the NP. Other population groups also made their crosses in great numbers behind the NP's name.

He hopes the debate on his budget vote will contribute to fostering understanding for his role in public life and in the government of national unity.

"The fact that I am deputy president does not mean that the NP is in an alliance with the ANC or the IFP. The NP has its own character."

Concerning the cabinet appointment to which the NP is entitled after the resignation of Mr. Derek Keys and about speculation that he is struggling to get a suitable candidate—who should preferably be colored or black, he says he still is negotiating on the matter. He is not "really in a hurry," and an appointment will be made before the end of the year. He denies rumors that the NP has been offered two deputy ministers' posts in exchange for a ministerial post. [passage omitted]

Trade Surplus Declines by R120 Million in Sep

MB2510123694 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1100 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] South Africa's trade surplus declined by just over 120 million rands last month, to a little under 168 million rands. Although import expenditure eased to under 7.5 billion rands, this was offset by a drop in exports from above 8.3 billion rands in August to 7.6 billion rands.

Economists have warned that an increase in economic activity can be expected to lead to a decline in South Africa's trade surplus. Imports of machinery have been

among the items contributing to a decline in surplus during the past few months. The total surplus for the first nine months of the year amounts to just over 10.5 billion rands. The surplus for the same period last year was more than (R14.5) billion rands.

Eskom Announces Plans To Reduce Cost of Electricity

*MB2610055794 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2100
GMT 25 Oct 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Witbank Oct 25 SAPA—Eskom [Electricity Supply Commission] plans to reduce the cost of electricity by 15 per cent over the next five years, according to Eskom Electricity Council chairman Dr. John Marais.

Eskom also plans to provide more than three million houses with electricity by the year 2000, SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] radio news reported.

Speaking at the opening of the Kendal power station near Witbank in the Eastern Transvaal on Tuesday [25 October], Dr. Marais said this would create about one million employment opportunities. He said Eskom was connecting about 100 homes a day.

Explaining his corporation's role in the Reconstruction and Development Programme, Dr. Marais said Eskom planned to spend about R50 million [rands] a year to connect 2,500 schools and clinics in rural areas.

Minister of Public Enterprises Mrs. Stella Sigcau appealed to provincial governments to speed up the programme of providing housing, education and health facilities so that Eskom's project should not be retarded.

To Cut Service to 40,000 Consumers

*MB2610055594 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2109
GMT 25 Oct 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Johannesburg Oct 25 SAPA—Electricity will be cut to about 40,000 consumers in Soweto in the next two months. Eskom [Electricity Supply Commission] said on Tuesday [25 October].

District Manager Ken Green said the cuts follow the expiry of a payment deadline agreed by Eskom, civic associations and political parties more than two years ago. He said Eskom had taken over the distribution of electricity in Soweto in March, 1992 after it was agreed in talks that civic associations would persuade their members to pay accounts.

Mr. Green said about 13,000 consumers had been cut off so far. However, about 4,000 had soon afterwards paid their current accounts, reconnection fees and an amount towards their arrears.

Mr. Green said, contrary to reports, the electricity tariff charged in Soweto was slightly lower than that charged in Johannesburg.

He said arrears by township consumers throughout South Africa amounted to more than R874 million [rands] since the take-over in early 1992 and the figure was increasing by R45 million a month. However, arrears would not affect the government's Reconstruction and Development Programme plan to make 500,000 connections a year to the national grid in the next five years at a cost of about R1 billion a year.

South African Press Review for 26 Oct

MB2610120294

[Editorial Report]

THE STAR

Criticism of Plan To Remove Education Subsidies—Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 26 October in a page 18 editorial comments on the possibility that subsidies to private schools "could be withdrawn or reduced." "All too many private schools struggle to make ends meet, with parents under constant pressures to find the money to maintain standards." THE STAR points out that private schools "were the first to open their doors to non-white children and many have a large black pupil enrolment." "Equal education will take time to achieve and the cause will not be helped by removing subsidies. Instead, an equitable funding system must be devised and applied to all children, regardless of where they are educated."

SOWETAN

South Africa and Mozambique Elections—"If black South Africans can agree to govern their country with their former oppressors, there is no reason why Mozambicans cannot forget the past and unite to map out a peaceful future," says a page 12 editorial in Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 26 October. "South Africa, authors of Mozambique's misery, should give it every assistance it can to atone for its past sins. But by helping Mozambique, South Africa will ultimately be helping itself. We need peace in this region if there is to be any economy development."

BUSINESS DAY

Regional Interest in Mozambique Elections—"Regional history, and the determination of their neighbours to stabilise a war-ravaged subcontinent, will be powerful influences on Mozambique's leaders after its first multi-party elections," says a page 10 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 26 October. Regardless of whoever wins the election, "reconciliation will be crucial" for stability. Both President Chissano and rebel leader Dhlakama "will find the region's leaders more than interested onlookers." "There is more common interest in southern Africa now than ever before, and it is for peace, development and democracy. This force is about to be turned on Mozambique, to help it progress after the election or try to avert conflict in the post-poll period."

Angola

U.S. Cited as Possible Venue for Peace Accord's Signing

MB2510194994 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 25 Oct 94

[Report by correspondent Alves Antonio in Lusaka]

[FBIS Translated Text] Alioune Blondin Beye, mediator of the Angolan peace process, continues with his Lusaka-Huambo-Luanda-Lusaka shuttle in search of possible solutions in the government-UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] talks that have practically [words indistinct], though there are still several issues to be settled. It has been reported in Lusaka that the outcome of Beye's contacts in Angola will be disclosed in the next few days. It is hoped that such contacts will save the complex peace talks, which are scheduled to resume 28 October. Political analysts believe that something unusual is taking place in view of Beye's moves.

Meanwhile, foreign newspapers have suggested that the signing ceremony of the peace accord could take place in the United States in line with a request made by UNITA. Beye said last week that the signing ceremony will be held in Lusaka.

UN Representative Arrives for Talks With President

MB2510201594 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Angolan peace talks mediator Alioune Blondin Beye is in Luanda for a meeting with president of the Republic Jose Eduardo dos Santos. He then will leave for Huambo to meet Jonas Savimbi. Beye's initiatives are designed to prevent further disputes between the government and UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] so the Lusaka Protocol can finally be signed. The talks are scheduled to resume on 28 October.

Foreign Ministry Says Czech Diplomatic Action 'Deplorable'

MB2510134194 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1200 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Manuel Quarta Punza, Angolan ambassador to the Czech Republic, and three other diplomats have been ordered to leave that country within the next 48 hours. The reasons that led to the Czech Foreign Affairs Ministry's expulsion of those Angolan diplomats are connected to the alleged poor treatment of the Czech charge d'affaires in the Czech Embassy in Luanda.

The Czech diplomat was accused by the Angolan Government of behavior incompatible with his diplomatic

status. Anercio Cadete, director for the Angolan Foreign Affairs Ministry Press Office, explains:

[Begin Cadete recording] The reasons behind this move [words indistinct] report by the former Czech Embassy charge d'affaires in Luanda. For a while now, that diplomat has behaved in an indecorous manner that dignifies neither the diplomatic corps nor his prestigious country, nor the good relations between the two countries. [end recording]

As far as is known, the diplomat at the root of the problem is outside Angola.

[Begin recording] [Cadete] We would like to make it clear to the Angolan and international communities that the Angolan Government neither expelled that Czech diplomat nor violated the basic principles of international law. All it tried to do was restore legality in the face of that diplomat's rather questionable behavior.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Anercio Cadete, exactly what was at the root of this problem?

[Cadete] The Czech Embassy was given two stories in a seven-story building that used to house the former Republic of Czechoslovakia Embassy. That Czech diplomat was illegally renting out apartments to common citizens in the other five stories. Such behavior contravened norms of international law and was not in keeping with bilateral diplomatic relations. [end recording]

Anercio Cadete also said the Angolan Foreign Affairs Ministry deplored the Czech Government's response.

[Begin Cadete recording] The Foreign Ministry regards as deplorable the response of the Czech authorities, who did not seek reciprocity along the lines of relations between the two states. [end recording]

Prime Minister Addresses Assembly on Economy, Armed Forces

MB2610072594 Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1930 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Angolan Prime Minister Marcelino Jose Carlos Moco and other cabinet members went to the National Assembly today to respond to concerns conveyed by deputies during the third legislative session. The Lusaka peace talks and the country's social and economic situation were the principal issues under discussion. The deputies had expressed their concerns right at the start of the third legislative session last week. One of those concerns was that the people's standards of living are deteriorating at a geometric rate. The deputies refused to approve more laws without first considering the country's social and economic problems. In view of that, the prime minister and other cabinet members went to the National Assembly to listen to the deputies' views and clarify certain issues.

Commenting on the stage of implementation of the Social and Economic Program, Prime Minister Marcelino Moco admitted that the planned goals have not been achieved yet.

[Begin Moco recording] As you are aware, our program—I hope you will not mind the comparison with an automobile—has skidded. It was a very serious setback and we have had to sit down and carefully consider how to return the vehicle to the track so the race can continue and we can reach the finish line. I believe we have already taken important steps. What is more, I believe our economic team can take very important steps to implement the Social and Economic Program that was approved here, if only we can continue to rely on the support of the National Assembly deputies and of all sovereign organs in Angola. [end recording]

At another point in his speech, Prime Minister Moco tied the economic skidding to the war effort.

[Begin Moco recording] We have continued to give priority to national defense and it is with pride that we can say today that we have frustrated our National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] brethren's plans to take over the country by force. We have also frustrated UNITA's other alternative, which was to divide our country in several Angolas. Those are noteworthy achievements which show that our government has made a major effort to support the Angolan Armed Forces. We shall continue to work to strengthen our armed forces. We are not hellbent on war, but experience tells us that a poorly defended state faces risks from within and without. Only a strengthened army, an effective control over the whole of Angolan territory, and an internal order with very solid roots can assure us that the peace agreement we are about to sign will in fact lead to real peace in the country. [end recording]

The Angolan prime minister also referred to other limitations which, from his point of view, also affect the implementation of the Social and Economic Program. Nevertheless, he promised the deputies in the National Assembly that the people's situation will improve and institutions will be dignified. Then, after obtaining due consent from the National Assembly chairman, Prime Minister Moco asked Economic Coordination Minister Pedro de Morais to provide a more in-depth explanation of the various problems at hand. However, that explanation only made the deputies more concerned, leading to a long period of questions which are bound to continue in the next session. In view of that, the government will have to come back to the National Assembly on 27 October to hear some more and then field the questions which are bound to be asked.

The information blackout [preceding word in English] ordered by UN Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye was in evidence when the government was due to comment on the Lusaka peace talks. The members of the press were politely invited to clear the National Assembly Hall and the deputies were briefed on the talks behind closed doors.

Government Briefs Parliament on Lusaka Talks

MB2510171394 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1200 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Angolan Government today briefed Parliament on the country's critical economic situation and the peace talks in Lusaka. Journalist Pedro Cabral reports:

The National Assembly this morning received information on the neg discussed tssns said the process is almost concluded but it is still necessary to be careful, and thus there are some reservations. Journalists waited outside until discussions on the peace talks were concluded because the session was held behind closed doors. Government negotiating team spokesman Higino Carneiro briefed Parliament on the situation of the Lusaka talks. The deputies later expressed hope that peace will be achieved in Angola soon. [passage omitted]

Mozambique

Frontline States Ready To Intervene Militarily

LD2510230194 Lisbon RTP Internacional Television in Portuguese 1900 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Our correspondent Fernando Magalhaes is on the line from Maputo. [passage omitted]

Do you have any information on the meeting which I believe was due to take place today in Zimbabwe between Joaquim Chissano and Afonso Dhlakama?

[Magalhaes] [Passage omitted] Quite a few pieces of information have come in already. For example - and this is important - that the 11 frontline leaders, the 11 presidents, have already decided that if matters take a turn for the worse in Mozambique during or after the elections, they will intervene with whatever means necessary, including militarily, as this possibility is provided for in the OAU charter.

It is also known that Chissano and Dhlakama did not actually meet each other. Dhlakama had talks with Mugabe this evening, as did Chissano who also met the other presidents.

It has also transpired that the meeting was initially supposed to be held in Maputo—Chissano was very keen on this—but South Africa opposed Maputo as the venue. Then Mugabe, saying that it was necessary to discuss regional stability, proposed Harare, and this was immediately accepted. [passage omitted]

Dhlakama Promises Mugabe, Masire No Return To War

MB2610062094 Maputo MEDIAFAX in Portuguese 26 Oct 94 p 1,2

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] (Harare)—The Frontline met yesterday to exert very strong diplomatic pressure on the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] leader to

accept the outcome of this week's elections, and Afonso Dhlakama undertook to do so.

The final weeks of the Renamo electoral campaign were marked by some serious threats—such as paralyzing the country "within 24 hours"—and remarks that it would not accept the election results.

The Frontline, which was expanded to include all Southern African Development Community (SADC) members—the Republic of South Africa is now a member, too—met in the Zimbabwean capital yesterday. Seven heads of state were present. The language of the final communique contains a veiled threat of concerted southern African action against any rejection of the Mozambique election results once they have been declared valid.

"The summit decided to continue monitoring the situation in Mozambique, and the Frontline must be ready to take appropriate and swift action if the situation requires it."

At the end of the summit, a journalist asked Zimbabwean Foreign Affairs Minister Nathan Shamuyarira whether such language meant that the Frontline was willing to take specific action to maintain peace and stability in Mozambique.

The Zimbabwean official answered that "what we are in the process of building is a set of mechanisms that will ensure conflicts are resolved under the aegis of the OAU. That is what will be used in the event of peace and order collapsing in Mozambique."

Would that mean military action?

"Yes," Nathan Shamuyarira replied.

After the summit, the Renamo leader held a two and a half hour meeting with Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe and Sir Ketumile Masire, his Botswana counterpart. In a statement to the media, the Zimbabwean head of state said Afonso Dhlakama had promised them that "he would not be going back to war."

The Renamo leader did not resort to the categorical tone that has characterized his remarks lately, and he replied as follows to a question on whether he expected to win

the upcoming elections: "I do not know if I will win them. I am not going to tell you that I will win, but the chance is there."

Botswana President Masire was specific about the reasons for the summit. "We have been getting wind of remarks allegedly made by Mr. Dhlakama that are contrary to everything he told us today;" notably, that what the Renamo leader wants is a free and fair election. The Botswana head of state noted that Dhlakama's words at the meeting, which also included Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, had assuaged "many fears in southern Africa."

The summit called on all Mozambican parties to accept the results "as soon as elections have been declared free and fair." The meeting also reaffirmed the promise that all countries in the region will accept the election results, whatever they may be. [passage omitted]

Renamo Official Denies Dhlakama Fired Secretary General

*MB2410113194 Maputo MEDIAFAX in Portuguese
24 Oct 94 p 2*

[Report by Carlos Cardoso]

[FBIS Translated Text] (Maputo) Herminio Morais, Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] representative in the Cease-Fire Commission and the Joint Commission for the Formation of the Mozambique Defense Armed Forces, denied reports in the 23 October DOM-INGO newspaper that Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama had left Manica Province suddenly for Maputo to dismiss Vicente Ululu from his present post of Renamo secretary general.

UN's Ajello: Situation 'Calm' as Elections Approach

MB2610084594 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0600 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] UN Special Representative Aldo Ajello said yesterday that the situation in Mozambique is calm two days before the start of the elections. The representative of the UN secretary general in Mozambique added that more than 1 million refugees and 3 million war-displaced people had returned to their homes over the last two years. These people had resumed normal lives and had returned to tilling their fields.

Cote d'Ivoire**U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Talbott Visits**

AB2510224094 Abidjan La Chaine Une Television Network in French 2000 GMT 25 Oct 94

[Passages within quotation marks recorded in English with superimposed French translation]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott has been in our country since this morning for a two-day visit. He said on arrival that the practice of democracy in Cote d'Ivoire should serve as an example for other countries of the subregion. Amadou Doukoure has more details:

[Doukoure] The plane carrying the U.S. deputy foreign minister landed at the Air Transport and Liaison Group air strip. On hand to welcome him was Defense Minister Leon Konan Koffi, who is also acting foreign minister. His Excellency U.S. Ambassador Hume Horan was also present. Mr. Talbott's visit to our country is part of a four-nation [as heard] African tour. Here in Abidjan, the last leg of the tour after Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Ghana, Mr. Talbott will talk about peace and cooperation in a country which he considers as a model as far as the practice of democracy and economic development are concerned.

[Talbott] "In Cote d'Ivoire, the ongoing economic reforms and the peaceful and constitutional transfer of power serve as a model for other countries in the region, and we hope that the upcoming elections in your country will also take place in an exemplary manner. The political and economic weight of Cote d'Ivoire could make it play an even more important potential leadership role in West Africa and the whole of Africa. Liberia as well as other African nations need the opinion, the support and the wise example that Cote d'Ivoire can offer."

[Doukoure] One hour after this statement, the U.S. deputy secretary of state paid a courtesy call on the minister of defense, who is currently acting as foreign minister. Mr. Leon Konan Koffi was accompanied on this occasion by all the head of the high commands.

At 1200 it was the turn of Charles Bauza Donwahi, speaker of the National Assembly, to receive the Number Two Man of the American diplomatic service. At the invitation of the National Assembly's foreign relations committee and extended to include other deputies, Mr. Strobe Talbott said in substance that his country, like Cote d'Ivoire, is greatly concerned by the conflicts currently gnawing at some countries of the subregion.

[Talbott] "Our government, like yours, recognizes that the Liberian conflict, like those of Angola, Mozambique, and Rwanda concern all of us, wherever we may live. Your president, Mr. Henri Konan Bedie, spoke for us all in his address to the UN General Assembly when he said, and I quote: We are ashamed at the idea of experiencing

political, ethnic, and religious tensions as well as armed conflicts which we thought were things of the past."

[Doukoure] After the National Assembly, the American diplomat was received at the presidential palace by the head of state at 1300. With President Henri Konan Bedie, who had the prime minister and other members of the government by his side, the U.S. secretary of state reviewed problems connected with regional efforts for the maintenance of peace in the subregion.

[Talbott] "The main (?idea) of our visit is to show the U.S. support for countries that have embarked on a firm path toward democracy and economic development, and who are ready to play a role in the maintenance of regional peace."

[Doukoure] Mr. Talbott later received by the head of state as guest for lunch. Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan was the last personality to receive the U.S. deputy foreign minister. Here too, Mr. Talbott reaffirmed American willingness to give support to countries engaged in the settlement of regional conflicts. What remains to be known is the nature of that support. To this question, the American diplomat replied that the decision will come from the Finance Ministry of his country.

Urge Increased OAU Role

AB2610112394 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 26 Oct 94 p 24

[Article by Constant Coulibaly]

[FBIS Translated Text] With a resolute tone, often backed by nods demonstrating his faith, the U.S. deputy secretary of state, Strobe Talbott, shared the U.S.' new vision of conflict resolution with the Ivorian members of parliament. Today, more than ever, the OAU whose role among others is to maintain peace on the continent, is being called upon to fully play its role in the prevention and settlement of subregional interethnic conflicts.

While stressing this urgency, the U.S. deputy secretary of state intended to make the representatives of the Ivorian people conscious of the fact that the United Nations now has a very limited room for action owing to the increase in fratricidal conflicts around the globe. Under the current conditions, the world's security organization headed by Egypt's Butrus Butrus-Ghali has lost its capacity to act efficiently. Mr. Talbott underlined one disturbing situation: that "the international community is in danger as the United Nations is incapable of reacting rapidly to crises." This means that Africa's stability and that of the West African subregion in particular constitutes a center of interest for the United States.

Mr. Talbott deplored the humanitarian disaster caused by the Liberian civil war and acknowledged its impact on our country. The OAU has the means of playing its role

as a peacekeeping body since it has already demonstrated its competence in the crises in Rwanda and Burundi. The development and success of conflict prevention mechanisms also depends on a global policy to fight hunger and poverty.

Duncan Receives Talbott

AB2610105094 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 26 Oct 94 p 23

[Article by Honorat Yedagne]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cote d'Ivoire will not send troops to Liberia. The Ivorian Government, in conformity with its foreign policy, has made it a matter of principle. U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, who was received yesterday by Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan, does not wish to see our country change its stand. On the contrary, Mr. Talbott, at the end of this audience, said it is better to give greater importance to a diplomatic approach in resolving the conflict. In this regard, Cote d'Ivoire, like Ghana which he recently visited, agreed to confidently cooperate with the countries of the subregion to restore peace to Liberia.

In addition, the American deputy secretary of state said that Cote d'Ivoire had made proposals to him on the assistance that the United States could provide it in its efforts to support the Liberian refugees. These proposals, whose contents were not disclosed, will be studied by Washington, Mr. Talbott indicated. He also, however, pointed out that the United States already provides assistance to the Liberian refugees through UN agencies such as the World Food Program and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Mali

FIAA Elements Attack Border Town, Four Civilians Killed

AB2110193494 Paris AFP in French 1613 GMT 21 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Bamako, 21 Oct (AFP)—The MALIAN PRESS AGENCY reports that four civilians have been killed and three soldiers injured during an attack launched in the night of 20 October on the Malian town of Ansongo, the chief town of one prefecture at the border with the Republic of Niger.

According to the agency, the attack was launched by about one hundred uniformed soldiers of the Islamic Arab Front of the Azaouad [FIAA], who rode to the town in four-wheel-drive vehicles.

Niger

Government Bans Propaganda Public Meetings, Posters

AB2110132094 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network in French 1200 GMT 21 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Niger Government has decided to ban all propaganda public meetings and

gatherings as well as the putting up of posters before the official launching of the campaign for the early parliamentary elections. The announcement was made today by Territorial Administration Minister Ousmane Oumarou, who stated however that meetings, cultural events, and general assemblies, which form part of the ordinary activities of political parties, are not affected by this ban. It should be recalled that the campaign for the early parliamentary elections will be opened one month before the date set for the first round of the poll.

Nigeria

Rights Activist Fawehinmi Freed on Unconditional Bail

AB2410124594 Paris AFP in English 1229 GMT 24 Oct 94

[By Ade Obisesan]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Lagos, 24 Oct (AFP)—A prominent Nigerian human rights activist and lawyer critic of the junta, Gani Fawehinmi, was Monday [24 October] freed on unconditional bail after more than three weeks in detention for forming a political party, he said.

An elated Fawehinmi told AFP by telephone from his office here that a Lagos magistrate's court granted the bail "unconditionally in (his) self-recognition" and added that his resolve to continue to oppose the military regime of General Sani Abacha was "total and irrevocable."

The court on Monday also adjourned further hearing in the case till 11 January. Arrested on 1 October as he attempted to launch his new National Conscience (NC) movement, Fawehinmi was last 18 October formally charged with illegal formation of a political party and with unlawful assembly.

A ban on political activities is scheduled to be lifted in January according to the political programme of the present military regime, which has cracked down in draconian fashion on pro-democracy activists, the unions and the media.

"Despite my arrest and detention, my position has not changed at all," the lawyer said. "While in detention in the past 24 days I was able to propagate the philosophy of the National Conscience (NC). During that same period I was also able to distribute at least 185 copies of the declaration and constitution (of the party)," he added. He also said that he was able to "recruit" members into the NC during the same period. [passage omitted]

Conference Sets 1997 for Transfer to Civilian Rule

AB2310154094 Paris AFP in English 1358 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lagos, Oct 23 (AFP)—Nigeria's military rulers could hand over control to a democratically-elected government by January 1997, according to

a report issued by a special constitutional conference commission, the Daily Times said Sunday [23 October].

The report, which must be approved by all members of the constitutional conference, suggested the transition period leading up to civilian rule should begin in 1995 and last for two years until January 1997, the pro-government daily said.

Military ruler General Sani Abacha recently said that the transfer date to civilian rule would be decided by the constitutional conference, the cornerstone of his program to gradually relinquish his power.

According to the commission's report, a transfer to civilian rule in 1995 is not possible and next year should be used as a period for national reconciliation.

It added that a new constitution, which must be ratified by the Provisional Ruling Council, should be adopted during the first quarter of 1995.

During that same period, the current government should lift its ban on the creation of political parties and reinstitute the country's national electoral commission which would be in charge of supervising the next elections.

The Daily Times said the transition period would be supervised by a national transitional government, the makeup of which the commission did not specify.

As to jailed opposition leader Moshood Abiola, the commission in its report recommended that he be freed and that all charges against him be dropped. Abiola, in exchange, would refrain from undertaking any action deemed against the interests of the state, the commission said in its report.

It added that the second quarter of 1995 should be used to study the conference's various recommendations on the division of power and the setting up of new states within the country.

The third quarter would then be used to set up the municipal, legislative and presidential elections.

The municipal elections would be held in January and February 1996 while local and state legislative elections

would be held in November of that year. A civilian government would take over on 2 January 1997, the report said.

*** New Benin City Digital Exchange Introduced**

94AF0282B Lagos *THE GUARDIAN* in English
28 Jul 94 p 17

[Article by Emeka Obiagwu: "NITEL Introduces Digital Lines in Benin"]

[Text] The new Benin City digital telephone exchange has been introduced into the main system of the national telecommunications network for use. No fewer than 11,000 telephone lines were transferred to the new exchange.

The technical cutover which would bring the exchange into operation was performed by a crew of NITEL technical personnel led by the general manager of NITEL south west zone, Mr. Fola Alamudun, while ITTN/ALCATEL, the installer of the equipment assisted during the exercise.

The design was described by NITEL officials as one of the latest in telecommunications technology having several useful features and considered to be of immense value to subscribers.

NITEL Benin public relations officer, Mr. Sunday Amah, said some of the features of the digital exchange which distinguish it from the old system include, International Direct Dialling (IDD) that enables users to make phone calls from the comfort of their home or offices to any part of the world without the assistance of NITEL operator.

He said traffic restriction makes it impossible for unauthorised calls to be made on user telephones while all diversion ensures that users no longer miss important calls.

"The introduction of this new system and the completion of the project is a fulfilment of the NITEL's strong desire to provide enhanced telecommunications services to the nation now that the new digital exchange has been put in place, what is expected of our people is adequate utilization, regular payment of service bills and protection of NITEL equipment, so that the huge sum of money invested on the project can be usefully justified," he said.

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